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Research Activities

of THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS,
AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING.

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Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

December 1952

SCS RESEARCH COMES TO THE BUREAU

In this issue of RESEARCH ACTIVITIES we extend a hearty welcome to some 160 employees at 50 locations who were transferred, November 23, to the Bureau from the Soil Conservation Service. At the same time we say goodbye and extend our best wishes to 180 men and women who have moved with the soil survey division to SCS. The physical move of the staff from Beltsville will be made as rapidly as office space can be made available for the soil survey people in the South building of Agriculture and at the Research Center.

The reorganization, based on Secretary Brannan's memorandum No. 1318, places in the Bureau all SCS projects dealing primarily with research on soil and crop management and the management of water on farms related to crop production. The transfer is designed to establish more clearly the responsibilities of the two agencies, to prevent duplication, facilitate joint programs, and to enable this Bureau to meet more effectively the research needs of the action agency. It places under BPISAE direction projects in erosion control at 31 locations, in drainage and water control at 10 locations, and in irrigation at 8 locations.

As Bureau Chief A.H. Moseman sees it, the reorganization provides an opportunity to develop a stronger and better balanced program of future research along these lines. He says, "We plan to review the problem areas with representatives of cooperating State agricultural experiment stations and other Federal agencies. We need to determine where the newly combined research program can be strengthened within present limits of funds and personnel. We shall give every consideration to continuing existing well-planned basic or long-term programs and hope to keep transfers of personnel to a minimum."



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Bureau soils research will be carried on in four divisions under the direction of F.W. Parker. K.D. Jacob will continue as head of the division of fertilizer and agricultural lime. R.Q. Parks will be in charge of the division of soil management in the humid region. Heads of the division of soil management in the irrigated and dry-land region and of the new division of soil and plant relationships are to be selected.

M.L. Nichols, formerly in charge of research for SCS, comes to the Bureau as a special assistant to Dr. Moseman. James H. Stallings and Russell E. Uhland, also formerly with the SCS Washington staff, will assist Dr. Parker in the general program review and planning future developments.

Leaders of transferred SCS research projects in each State are: Arthur W. Cooper, F.A. Kummer, and E.C. Richardson, Auburn, Ala.; Maurice Donnelly, Riverside, Calif.; Hayden K. Rouse, Gunnison, Colo.; Melvin H. Gallatin, Homestead, Fla.; John R. Carrecker and B.H. Hendrickson, Watkinsville, Ga.; George N. Sparrow, Tifton, Ga.; Charles B. Gay, Fleming, Ga.; Francis H. Siddoway, St. Anthony, Idaho; Harry B. Atkinson, Joliet, Ill.; Frank W. Shaller, Ames, Iowa; N.L. Stoltzenberg, Lafayette, Ind.; Walter R. Meyer, Garden City, Kans.; Frank W. Zingg, Manhattan, Kans.; Irwin L. Saveson, Baton Rouge, La.; Clarence S. Britt, Gilbert B. Posey, and Clarence S. Slater, Beltsville, Md.; George A. Crabb, jr., East Lansing, Mich.; Dwight D. Smith, Columbia, Mo.; Richard F. Dudley, State College, Miss.; Frank L. Duley, Lincoln, Nebr.; Gerow D. Brill, New Brunswick, N.J.; George R. Free, Ithaca, N.Y.; Thomas L. Copley and Ellis G. Diseker, Raleigh, N.C.; Harold L. Borst, Wooster, Ohio; H.H. Finnell, Goodwell, Okla.; Harley A. Daniel, Guthrie, Okla.; Theo R. Horning, Pendleton, Ore.; Oliver W. Beale and John T. Bregger, Clemson, S.C.; Richard M. Smith, Temple, Texas; C.J. Whitfield, Amarillo, Texas; P. Earl Ross, Weslaco, Texas; Vaughan E. Hansen, Logan, Utah; T.W. Edminster, Blacksburg, Va.; Stephen J. Mech, Prosser, Wash.; Glenn M. Horner, Pullman, Wash.; Orville E. Hays, LaCrosse, Wisc.; Byron R. Tomlinson and Frank Rauzi, Laramie, Wyo.; and J. Vicente-Chandler, Rio Piedras, P.R.

While expressing regret that the Bureau should lose the soil survey division, Dr. Moseman sees the new organization as a potential step forward for soil survey work. He points out that during the 14 years the division has been a part of the Bureau, the activities have been curtailed, first by World War II and later by increased operating costs. During this period various kinds of soil classification work have been initiated in other units of the Department and in other Federal agencies. The reorganization brings much of the soil survey work into one unit.

C.E. Kellogg, chief of the division, Roy Simonson, Guy D. Smith, and William H. Allaway will move to offices in the South building of Agriculture in Washington. L.T. Alexander, long-time member of the soils research staff, has transferred to soil surveys to head up laboratory work. This will be continued at Plant Industry Station. Other members of the staff including the cartographic and soil survey reports groups will move to quarters at the Research Center as soon as space is made available.

NEW FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURE

"Our success in making efficient use of fertilizer and lime," Dr. Moseman told the National Fertilizer Association, November 21, "will depend almost entirely on our ability to gear all aspects of crop production, soil management, and conservation to a higher level of efficiency. This will require a more adequate understanding of the laws and principles governing plant growth and development, and the orderly application of such knowledge in modifying growth processes. This background or basic information represents the new foundations for tomorrow's agriculture.

"We must continually keep in mind that the successful use of fertilizers is closely tied in with new knowledge of soil types and management practices. Advances in fertilizer research will rest in part upon concurrent improvements in crop varieties, pest control practices, and new knowledge of the complex plant, soil, and water relationships. While we must have research in progress at all stages of development, we must devote more time and effort to the basic studies that may appear to have little or no immediate application. This is our long-time investment in the future."

(Copies of Dr. Moseman's speech may be obtained from the Information Division, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.)

Henry T. Skinner became director of the National Arboretum, September 29. An Englishman, Dr. Skinner is a graduate of the Wisley School of the Royal Horticultural Society, holds the BS and MS degrees from Cornell, a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. For the past 12 years he has been curator of the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia.

Marion W. Parker assumes leadership of the division of rubber investigations, December 20, when R.D. Rands retires. Dr. Parker joined the division in March of this year to direct physiological and biochemical work on hevea. His association with the Bureau goes back to June 1936 when he began research on the mechanism of the photoperiodic reaction. Dr. Rands' retirement brings to an end 32 years of service in the Bureau. He has been associated with the division of rubber investigations since 1940 and has headed the division the past four years. He plans to make his home in Lake Wales, Fla., where he owns a citrus grove.

New coordinator for weed investigations in the North Central States is D.L. Klingman. A member of the staff since 1948, he succeeds L.M. Stahler, who resigned September 1 to join the Pacific Borax company. Mr. Klingman holds degrees from Nebraska and Purdue and has completed most requirements for a Phd from Nebraska. After January 1 he will be located at the regional office in Columbia, Mo. and work in cooperation with Russell Larson, regional agricultural engineer assigned to weed control equipment.

Lewis B. Nelson (SM&I) has transferred from Fort Collins, Colo. to Beltsville to supervise research in the evaluation of kinds and forms of fertilizers on many soils and under different systems of soil management. Before coming to the Bureau in 1949, Dr. Nelson was associate professor of soils at Iowa State College. He is a native of Idaho, did his undergraduate work at the University of Idaho, and holds a Phd from the University of Wisconsin.

Joel F. Walters joined the staff of the information division, November 9, as publications writer. A native of Illinois, a graduate of Northwestern University, Mr. Walters has done work on technical publications for the Sperry Gyroscope company, the American Locomotive company, and Forest Service. He has been editor for the FS Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Ogden, Utah for the past five years.

In recognition of Sterling B. Hendricks' outstanding contribution in the application of chemistry and physics to the solution of geological problems, the Geological Society of America has awarded him the Arthur L. Day gold medal. The presentation was made in Boston, November 14. A picture of Dr. Hendricks receiving the medal and an account of the meeting appear in CHEMICAL AND ENGINEERING NEWS for November 24, 1952.

Leon Havis and Anna L. Gilkerson (now Mrs. Brooke Meanley) received medals and a cash prize of \$50 each in the Joseph Harvey Gourley award in pomology. The honor is in recognition of their research covering the inter-relationships of nitrogen and potassium fertilization and pruning mature peach trees. Pictures of Dr. Havis and Mrs. Meanley and the story appeared in the November 1952 issue of AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER.

Bureau awards have recently been presented to Robert L. Tippett and Clarence J. Guidry (SPI) stationed at Houma, La. Mr. Tippett, a biological science aid, received a superior accomplishment award carrying a step increase in grade. He was cited for his alertness in noting unusual symptoms on a plant in the sugarcane variety nurseries. These were later identified as evidence of a species of Sclerospora disease, not previously detected in the United States. Mr. Guidry, an agricultural aid, received a \$10 cash award for suggesting a device that has reduced hand hoeing by 50 percent in the cultivation of small sugarcane seedlings.

Louis C. Bouchard, an architect, has joined the staff of the division of farm buildings and rural housing. He was educated at the University of Illinois and for several years has had his own architectural firm in Lake Forrest, Illinois.

Three members of the division of forage crops and diseases are on a year's leave of absence to assist FAO. R.J. Garber, director of the U.S. Pasture Laboratory at State College, Pa., is spending the year at FAO headquarters in Rome, doing extension type work. In his absence Dr. J.T. Sullivan is Acting Director. J. Lewis Allison is teaching and conducting research in Iraq. David A. Savage, director of the U.S. Field Station, Woodward, Okla., is in Mexico directing research on livestock and range improvement. E.H. McIlvan, jr. is in charge while he is away. Donovan S. Correll (PEI) is co-author with the late Oakes Ames of Harvard of "Orchids in Guatemala," a definitive new book being published by the Chicago Natural History Museum.